

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ALONSO PENA,
CDCR #F-95885,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN DOE #1; JOHN DOE #2;
JOHN DOE #3; JOHN DOE #4,

Defendants.

Civil No. 11-1110 DMS (CAB)

ORDER:

**(1) GRANTING MOTION TO
PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*,
[ECF No. 3]; AND**

**(2) DIRECTING U.S. MARSHAL TO
EFFECT SERVICE OF COMPLAINT
PURSUANT TO FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(3)
& 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d)**

Alonso Pena (“Plaintiff”), a state prisoner currently incarcerated at the California Correctional Institution, and proceeding in pro se, has filed a civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In addition, Plaintiff has filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (“IFP”) [ECF No. 3]. In his Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Sheriff Deputies with the Imperial County Sheriff’s Department used excessive force against him while he was housed in the Imperial County Jail. (*See* Compl. at 3-4.)

///

///

I.

MOTION TO PROCEED IFP [ECF No. 3]

All parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a district court of the United States, except an application for writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of \$350. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a plaintiff's failure to prepay the entire fee only if the plaintiff is granted leave to proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). *See Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999). However, prisoners granted leave to proceed IFP remain obligated to pay the entire fee in installments, regardless of whether their action is ultimately dismissed. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) & (2).

The Court finds that Plaintiff has no available funds from which to pay filing fees at this time. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4). Therefore, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed IFP [ECF No. 3] and assesses no initial partial filing fee per 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). However, the entire \$350 balance of the filing fees mandated shall be collected and forwarded to the Clerk of the Court pursuant to the installment payment provisions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

II.

SCREENING PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) & 1915A(b)

The PLRA also obligates the Court to review complaints filed by all persons proceeding IFP and by those, like Plaintiff, who are "incarcerated or detained in any facility [and] accused of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program," "as soon as practicable after docketing." *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b). Under these provisions of the PLRA, the Court must sua sponte dismiss complaints, or any portions thereof, which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or which seek damages from defendants who are immune. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A.

Here, the Court finds Plaintiff's allegations sufficient to survive the sua sponte screening required by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b).¹ Accordingly, the Court finds Plaintiff is

¹ Plaintiff is cautioned that "the sua sponte screening and dismissal procedure is cumulative of, and not a substitute for, any subsequent Rule 12[] motion that [a defendant] may choose to bring." *Teahan v. Wilhelm*, 481 F. Supp. 2d 1115, 1119 (S.D. Cal. 2007).

entitled to U.S. Marshal service on his behalf. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d); FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(3). However, Plaintiff must make an effort to identify the unnamed Defendants and amend his pleading to substitute their true names. While the use of “Doe” Defendants is disfavored, the Court will not dismiss Plaintiff’s claims at this time. *See Wakefield v. Thompson*, 177 F.3d 1160, 1163 (9th Cir. 1999) (citing *Gillespie v. Civiletti*, 629 F.2d 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980)) (where identity of alleged defendants will not be known prior to filing of complaint, plaintiff should be given an opportunity through discovery and amend his complaint to identify the unknown defendants, unless it is clear that discovery would not uncover the identities, or that the complaint would be dismissed on other grounds).

III.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Good cause appearing therefor, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

1. Plaintiff’s Motion to proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [ECF No. 3] is **GRANTED**.

2. The Secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or his designee, shall collect from Plaintiff’s prison trust account the \$350 balance of the filing fee owed in this case by collecting monthly payments from the account in an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month’s income and forward payments to the Clerk of the Court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). **ALL PAYMENTS SHALL BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY THE NAME AND NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THIS ACTION.**

3. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve a copy of this Order on Matthew Cate, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S Street, Suite 502, Sacramento, California 95814.

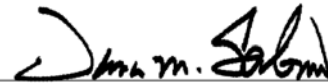
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

4. The Clerk shall issue a summons as to Plaintiff’s Complaint [ECF No. 1] upon the Defendants and shall forward it to Plaintiff along with a blank U.S. Marshal Form 285 for each Defendant. In addition, the Clerk shall provide Plaintiff with a copy of this Order and a copy

1 of his Complaint and the summons so that he may serve Defendants. Upon receipt of this "IFP
2 Package," Plaintiff is directed to complete the Form 285s as completely and accurately as
3 possible, and to return them to the United States Marshal according to the instructions provided
4 by the Clerk in the letter accompanying his IFP package. Upon receipt, the U.S. Marshal shall
5 serve a copy of the Complaint and summons upon Defendants as directed by Plaintiff on the
6 USM Form 285s. All costs of service shall be advanced by the United States. *See* 28 U.S.C.
7 § 1915(d); FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(3).

8 5. Plaintiff shall serve upon the Defendants or, if appearance has been entered by
9 counsel, upon Defendants' counsel, a copy of every further pleading or other document
10 submitted for consideration of the Court. Plaintiff shall include with the original paper to be
11 filed with the Clerk of the Court a certificate stating the manner in which a true and correct copy
12 of any document was served on Defendants, or counsel for Defendants, and the date of service.
13 Any paper received by the Court which has not been filed with the Clerk or which fails to
14 include a Certificate of Service will be disregarded.

15 DATED: August 10, 2011



HON. DANA M. SABRAW
United States District Judge